

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 688 without my signature.

While I support efforts to promote skin cancer prevention, this bill is unnecessary and duplicative of numerous efforts currently in place.

Nothing prohibits schools from integrating sun-safety instruction into lesson plans. In fact, the current Health Curriculum Framework already includes a topic of environmental health, intended to make students aware of how environmental issues affect their personal health. The framework includes expectations for students to demonstrate ways in which to enhance and maintain their health and well-being, including specific examples of using protective equipment or practices, such as using sunscreen or a hat in bright sunlight.

Currently, a specific program, administered through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is aimed at teaching children how to be protected from overexposure to the sun through the use of classroom based, school based, and community based materials. Moreover, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the National Association of School Boards, and the Department of Health Services have all published guidelines or instructional materials regarding sun safety and skin cancer prevention for schools. Much of this material is easily accessible from the Internet. The Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) can already access this information and should be informing schools of its availability, even without this bill.

At this point, the SPI has not requested any of this information from my Health and Human Services Agency Secretary, to be distributed to school districts. However, to assist in the effort to promote skin cancer prevention, I am directing the Department of Health Services to provide a list of the myriad of skin cancer prevention educational resources to the SPI, for distribution to school districts and county offices of education.

For the reasons stated above, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger